

## Great Basin Coordinating Group

### FireOrg Briefing Information

In 2001 the National Coordinators formed a workgroup consisting of subject matter experts from the Dispatch/Coordination/Center Manager business group. The group was formed to address the continual questions of dispatch office staffing levels and the interagency cost sharing for dispatch center operations which constantly arise when considering dispatch organizations and staffing.

During that time the federal agencies were utilizing NFMAS (developed by Bighorn Information Systems) as a budget analysis tool so the dispatch group tasked Bighorn to develop a dispatch program compatible with NFMAS that could be adopted by agencies as an official budget analysis tool. The result of that effort is a comprehensive analysis program known as FireOrg.

The software program calculates the minimum number of dispatchers required to staff a single agency dispatch office or an interagency dispatch center. It also determines the percent of workload by unit/agency for an interagency dispatch center from which managers can then calculate cooperator fair share costs for their dispatch operation. Currently, FireOrg is a stand-alone program. The entire FireOrg process was initially calibrated using real data from a small, medium, and large center.

FireOrg utilizes workload attributes or factors to describe the core work criteria that may be accomplished by each dispatch office and/or coordination center. The factors, with each of their associated “weighted values”, describe the workload that dispatch offices respond to on a daily basis. Some factors include, but are not limited to, fire occurrence, fire size, team fires, resources ordered in and resources mobilized out. FireOrg also addresses the day to day workload of a dispatch/coordination center such as prescribed fire, fires for resource benefit, support of extended attack wildfires, annual and daily reporting requirements and many other factors.

It is important to note that a FireOrg analysis is much more than an analysis of the number and size of fires falling under the jurisdiction of any particular agency. The workload associated with providing dispatch services as a host dispatch to a fire agency, support of incident management teams, number of large and/or extended attack fires, aircraft resources dispatched, etc., are all also part of the workload. When utilizing FireOrg for a GACC analysis, factors or tasks performed by a local initial attack center are eliminated and replaced with tasks associated with a GACC. Western Great Basin was the first GACC to successfully run FireOrg in the modified or “GACC” version.

Outputs from the model are the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions necessary to adequately staff a dispatch organization as well as the percent of workload created by the individual units/agencies represented in the dispatch center being analyzed. FTE positions are considered by FireOrg to be positions staffed 5 day/40 hours/week equal to a total of 2080 hours per year. FireOrg FTEs do not consider annual leave, sick leave, training, or 7-day staffing during the fire season. For this reason, in order to gain a realistic view of the number of positions needed to adequately staff a dispatch center FireOrg results must be adjusted using a Relief Factor.

Relief Factor adjustments indicate how many persons it takes to fill a single job position for a single shift taking into account vacation, sick leave, training days, off unit assignments and other types of leave or scheduling. When the time for holidays, leave, training and assignments is subtracted from 2080, the “useable” hours for a FTE are about 1500 – 1700 hours per year. Other dispatch organizations, such as 911 dispatching, tend to use a standard Relief Factor of 1.7. When the Relief Factor is multiplied by the number of FTEs produced in the FireOrg outputs a reasonable representation of the adequate staffing required for a dispatch/coordination center is obtained.

The Relief Factor used for IDOPP study was 1.5. In order to remain consistent and follow the National dispatch staffing, analysis and consolidation “tool-box” the same relief factor will be used for the Great Basin analysis.

For more information about FireOrg use the following link:

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/FireOrg\\_users\\_guide\\_2009.pdf](http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/FireOrg_users_guide_2009.pdf)

